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SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENERGY R& D

REF: IAEA VIENNA 3682

SUMMARY. IAEA DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING SUMMARY LIST OF ITS CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES (CHIEFLY MEETINGS) RELATED TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING FUELS AND ENERGY. END SUMMARY.

1. ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

A. MHD-- COOPERATION WITH OECD (NEA), EURATOM AND INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS FROM 19 MEMBER STATES THROUGH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF MHD LIAISON GROUP, AND SPECIALIST MEETINGS OR PANELS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS, AS RECOMMENDED BY LIAISON GROUP. LARGE INTERNATIONAL MHD CONFERENCES HELD 1966, 68 AND 71. NEXT ONE SCHEDULED FOR 1975.

B. THERMONUCLEAR FUSION-- COOPERATION WITH EURATOM AND EXPERTS FROM 10 MEMBER STATES THROUGH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL FUSION RESEARCH COUNCIL. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FUSION REACTOR DESIGN SCHEDULED FOR 1974. MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PLASMA PHYSICS AND CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR FUSION HELD EVERY FOUR YEARS. NEXT ONE SCHEDULED IN JAPAN IN 1974.

2. ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER FISSION REACTORS TECHNOLOGY

A. FAST REACTORS-- COOPERATION WITH OECD(NEA), ECE, AND EXPERTS FROM 7 MEMBER STATES THROUGH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL WORK-
ING GROUP ON FAST REACTORS. NUMEROUS SPECIALIST MEETINGS ON NAR-
ROWLY- DEFINED SPECIFIC TOPICS HELD AS RECOMMENDED BY IWGFR. NEXT
ONE WILL BE HELD IN DIMITROVGRAD, USSR, IN JUNE ON DEVELOPMENT AND
APPLICATION OF ABSORBER MATERIALS FOR FAST REACTORS. ADDITIONAL
LARGER SYMPOSIA/ CONFERENCES HELD PERIODICALLY ON SUBJECTS RELAT-
ING TO FAST REACTORS, SUCH AS FAST REACTOR SAFETY, AND COMMISSION-
ING AND OPERATION OF PROTOTYPE PLANTS.

B. ADVANCED THERMAL AND MULTIPURPOSE REACTORS-- COOPERATION
WITH OECD(NEA), EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES AND VARIOUS ORGANIZA-
TIONS CONCERNED WITH WATER RESOURCES, THROUGH TECHNICAL PANELS,
SYMPOSIA AND OTHER MEETINGS HELD PERIODICALLY. PARTICIPATION IN
ENERGY/ DESALTING STUDIES. SYMPOSIUM ON HIGH- TEMPERATURE GAS
COLLED REACTORS SCHEDULED FOR 1974.

3. OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

A. IMPROVEMENT OF RELIABILITY OF EXISTING POWER PLANTS-- COOP-
ERATION WITH EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES THROUGH WORKING GROUPS
AND SPECIALISTS MEETINGS. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM MEMBER
STATES ON OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND ANNUAL PUBLICATION
OF DATA RECEIVED. PANEL ON METHODS OF ASSESSMENT FOR ASSURING
NUCLEAR POWER STATION RELIABILITY TO BE HELD MAY/ JUNE 1973. SYM-
POSIUM ON EXPERIENCE FROM OPERATING AND FUELING OF NUCLEAR POWER
PLANTS TO BE HELD OCTOBER 1973.

4. URANIUM AND THORIUM RESOURCES

A. EVALUATION OF WORLD URANIUM AND THORIUM RESOURCES AND PRO-
DUCTION-- COOPERATION WITH OECD(NEA) AND EXPERTS FROM MEMBER
STATES THROUGH ANNUAL MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUP, COLLECTION, COM-
PILATION AND PUBLISHING OF REPORTS (EVERY TWO YEARS). NEXT REPORT
TO BE ISSUED SEPT 1973. SYMPOSIUM ON FORMATION OF URANIUM ORE DE-
POSITS TO BE HELD 1974.

B. IMPROVEMENT OF PRESPECTING TECHNIQUES-- EXCHANGE OF INFORMA-
TION THROUGH PANELS, SYMPOSIA AND COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM
MEETINGS. SOME SMALL RESEARCH CONTRACTS.

C. PROCESSING OF URANIUM-- COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM WITH
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INVESTIGATORS IN EIGHT MEMBER STATES ON RECOVERY OF URANIUM FROM
LOW GRADE ORES THROUGH BACTERIAL LEACHING. PERIODIC MEETINGS TO
EXCHANGE INFORMATION.

D. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE-- AGENCY IS NOW PARTICIPATING IN THREE
LARGE- SCALE UNDP PROJECTS AND 15 SMALL PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES RELATED TO URANIUM PROSPECTING AND/ OR PROCESSING.

5. FUEL TECHNOLOGY

A. FUEL MATERIALS PRODUCTION/ FUEL ELEMENT FABRICATION/ FUEL ELEMENT REPROCESSING-- COOPERATION WITH EXPERTS FROM MEMBER STATES THROUGH STUDY GROUPS, PANELS, SYMPOSIA, AND RESEARCH CONTRACTS. PARTICIPATION IN LARGE- SCALE UNDP PROJECT IN ROMANIA. SYMPOSIUM ON FUEL AND FUEL ELEMENTS FOR FAST REACTORS TO BE HELD JULY 1973. SYMPOSIUM ON THERMODYNAMICS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO BE HELD 1974. PANEL ON SOL- GEL PROCESSES FOR FUEL FABRICATION TO BE HELD THIS MONTH.

6. PLUTONIUM AND THORIUM USE

A. PLUTONIUM UTILIZATION IN THERMAL AND FAST BREEDER REACTORS/ THORIUM FUEL CYCLE-- COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THROUGH PANELS, SYMPOSIA AND OTHER MEETINGS. ANTICIPATE EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THORIUM FUEL CYCLE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON USE OF THORIUM IN HIGH- TEMPERATURE REACTORS. SOME ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THESE FIELDS.

7. ENERGY FORECASTS-- COOPERATION WITH OECD(NEA) AND MEMBER STATES

IN CARRYING OUT GENERAL ENERGY AS WELL AS NUCLEAR POWER FORECASTS IN INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH SURVEYS, COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. INCLUDES NUCLEAR POWER MARKET SURVEY OF 14 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, WITH SUPPORT FROM IBRD, AID, EX- IM BANK, AND SEVERAL MEMBER STATES.

8. ECONOMICS OF NUCLEAR POWER

A. CAPITAL AND FUEL COSTS-- COOPERATION WITH OECD(NEA) AND VARIOUS MEMBER STATES THROUGH MEETINGS AND SURVEYS OF FUEL COSTS, AS WELL AS FOSSIL FUEL COSTS. AGENCY WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OECD GENERAL REPORT ON ENERGY. AGENCY ALSO EXPECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY RE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ON NUCLEAR POWER COSTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS.

B. METHODOLOGY-- COOPERATION WITH IBRD AND EXPERTS FROM MEMBER UNCLASSIFIED

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STATES THROUGH PANELS, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER MEETINGS ON INTERNATIONAL EXTRAPOLATION OF POWER COSTS AND COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE POWER PROGRAMS. PORTER

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